

Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson were heroes. They chose to place themselves in harm's way every day they came to work. In that awful moment last Friday, they did not flinch from making the ultimate sacrifice to protect coworkers, friends, and even complete strangers.

They were more than just officers, though. They were husbands, fathers, and a grandfather. We grieve with their families, mourning their loss and ours. Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson were part of that thin blue line that runs through every community in America.

As we remember their heroism this week, let us not forget that their colleagues here at the Capitol and in law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation still stand ready to protect and search. Let us appreciate the contributions they make and the risks that they take each day when they put on that uniform.

As Ronald Reagan said, those who say we don't have heroes anymore, well, they just don't know where to look. We lost two of those heroes on Friday.

TRIBUTE TO THE SLAIN OFFICERS WHO DEFENDED THE U.S. CAPITOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the slain officers who valiantly have defended the people's House last Friday, Special Agent John Gibson and Special Agent Jacob Chestnut.

Shakespeare wrote, "All the world is a stage, and all the men and women, merely players. Each has his entrance and his exit. One man in his time may play many parts."

So it was with Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. They, too, played many roles. They were sons, husbands, fathers, friends, coworkers. They were great men, great not because of the titles they carried, not because of the uniforms they wore. They were great not because of where they worked, nor because of who they worked with.

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No, they were great because, measured by the true standard of greatness set by Jesus, that is, "he who is great among you shall be your servant and he who is greatest shall be servant unto all," they measured up.

They served us all. They stood by the door to protect us and thousands who visit this Capitol each day. Both literally and figuratively, they served us and America by giving their last full measure of devotion and to protect us and the House of Democracy.

Too often, those in exalted places of power overlook the nameless persons who serve and wait. Whether those who sweep the floors, hold the doors, service or drive the elevators, serve the food, cut the grass, or clean the toilets,

they are too often overlooked. But they, too, are great, because they also serve.

We are grateful to God and to the families of Officers Gibson and Chestnut for allowing us in America to benefit from their service.

Yes, all the world is a stage and all the men and women merely players. Each has its entrance and his exit and these two in their time played many parts. For their service and their friendship, we are grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a sad heart to extend my condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. I do this on behalf of my wife, Simone, and our family, my staff, and the constituents of the Sixth Congressional District of New York.

I have only been a Member of the Capitol community for about 5 months, and it has been a learning experience for me and my staff, as most of us are new to Washington. One of the things that we have learned is that there is a strong sense of community here. Members and staff view each other as colleagues, and we view our staffs as part of our families.

The Capitol Police, in my opinion, are indeed an extension of that spirit of professional respect, friendship, and family. They protect Members, they protect our staffs, and they protect the many visitors that visit the Capitol every day. They risk their lives for us and for America. But we must ask ourselves, what is it that they are protecting?

I believe, as I am sure all Americans believe, that they are defending the crucible of freedom. It is the crucible of freedom that is on display every day in this building. The fact that Officers Chestnut and Gibson gave their lives defending this place will serve as a reminder to me what the words "duty" and "service" really mean. The senseless act of this past Friday truly define the words "defending the Constitution."

Yes, I still learn every day that I am here, as I had learned before I arrived here, that we cannot place a value on human life. But a person who is willing to give their life, make the ultimate sacrifice so that someone else might continue to live, is one who really understands life and its value.

Yes, as others have said, freedom is not free. And it is with a tremendous sacrifice that we are free in this country, a freedom that we all too often take for granted.

But I just pray that we all understand what sacrifice means after this tragedy. I again send my prayers to the families of these heroes. I know, and I want them to know, that they are not alone. This House, this Congress, and indeed America's prayers are supporting them.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4328, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-651) on the resolution (H. Res. 510) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4328) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 629, TEXAS LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL COMPACT CONSENT ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-652) on the resolution (H. Res. 511) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 629) to grant the consent of the Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

STAFF TRIBUTES TO DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I probably will not take the entire 5 minutes, for those who are waiting to speak. I just wanted to add to last night, when I read into the RECORD some of my staff's memories of Detective John Gibson. Today I had a few more that my staff offers, and I wanted to read them into the RECORD as well.

From Jim Morrell,

Working in the front office at the Whip Office for a year and a half, I had the opportunity to come to know John; the opportunity to know what an outstanding human being he truly was. When the nights got late with Congressman DeLaay up in leadership meetings or on the House Floor, there would often be just a few of us left in the office. I can remember staying up there until 11:00 or 12:00 at night with John watching TV or talking about the latest events in the sports world. With John being a die-hard Red Sox fan and me being a die-hard Cubs fan, we often commiserated on the respective futility of our favorite baseball teams.

I walked into the Whip's office last Friday, minutes before the tragic events unfolded. Although I came in the front door, I turned my head towards the back hallway before continuing on. There sat John at the back desk dutifully guarding his post.

For the rest of my life, that image of John will stay with me. The image of a guardian, a defender, a protector. I can imagine John, even as shots were being fired, thinking, "There is no way you are going to harm the people in this office."